



Betty Shannon was District Equal Employment Officer for 10 years.

MOVIN' UP:

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

As in the rest of society, progress for women and minorities has not come automatically in the Tulsa District.

Both the "EEO" — equal employment opportunity — and its companion Federal Women's Program arose from Washington mandates in the 1960s and 1970s. They have wrought profound changes in the District work force.

The numbers of women and minority workers nearly doubled (from 204 to 366) in the decade after 1974, when the programs went into high gear in the District. Even more significant, a high percentage of women and minorities moved from the lowest job ranks into middle or higher professional, technical, and management posts. The changes amount to a veritable revolution.

District EEO programs generally aim to eliminate bias and prejudice toward minorities and women. The program provides increased training opportunities and cultural awareness programs, such as Black Heritage Week and Native American Heritage Week.

One of the most successful programs is called Upward Mobility, which offers special training and promotion options to under-employed workers with high advancement potential.

Woodie McClellan became the District's first fulltime EEO officer in 1974. Betty Shannon assumed the post in 1975 and served for a decade. She was succeeded by Maggie Edwards.

The Federal Women's Program was established in 1967. The first coordinator, Mildred Gowins, was named in 1970, and succeeded in 1976 by Myra Craig, who was given a clear mandate by Col. Driskill "to serve as an advisor and assure that equal opportunity for women is an integral part of the District's overall equal opportunity program." Craig was followed by Jeannette L. Perry, titled FWP manager, in 1979; Beverly Leland in 1980; Norma Bennett in 1981; and Jean Y. Newman in 1982.

THEY'RE NOT RANGERETTES



Women's ranger uniforms have ranged from mini skirts, right, to the recently added maternity model.

The first District women park rangers were heralded by a headline: "They're not rangeresses," wrote the Muskogee Phoenix on April 29, 1973.



Although the women were working only for the summer, they had full ranger authority and were not second-class rangers, said Operations Chief Ira E. Williams.

But some problems arose over finding appropriate uniforms. So the District employed "a talented dressmaker" who "whipped up an outfit, in traditional forest green, consisting of a three-quarter-length coat with top stitching detail, skirt, slacks, and a snappy little short-brimmed cap with the Corps castle insignia," according to a District press release.

With luck, the headline on the press release will be quickly forgotten: "Pulchritude Added to Corps' Park Ranger Program."